

Greetings to Members of the Human Services Committee.

I am here to support the Raised Bill of 6765...WHY? Because I have always felt that it is very important that we have interpreters who are very qualified and well trained. Too many times through my life I have seen people with a big misconception that if the interpreters know how to spell ABC or few signs OR have taken a course or two, they are proficient enough to serve the Deaf. This is not TRUE.

Sign language involves much more than memorizing words and understanding syntax that we often see when for example, taking French courses and in my opinion one of the hardest languages to master. We have our own culture, signs, syntax, and idioms. Instead of using voice to indicate our mood or tone, we have our own facial and body expressions and the interpreters have to have a high level of skill to be able to accommodate it.

For this reason we ask our CODA children to help interpret for us especially in some of the sensitive medical situations. We can't afford to NOT understand the doctors when they want us to lipread or when they do not explain enough about the incoming surgeries. Our children understand our complex and unique language from watching us as they grew up and in fact they learned our language before they learned to speak. Oftentimes their help to make a better flow of conversation and association with the general public enabling us to be ourselves while we speak with them EVEN through some of the situations where the doctors refuse to hire the interpreters. It happened to my husband several years ago when he had to have surgery on both hands and was heavily bandaged, the insensitive doctor refused to send for an interpreter.

We have been faced with many different situations but we believe that with good quality of training and monitoring by the experts, the interpreting situations can continue to make productive contribution.

Thank you very much,

Grant and Betty A. Young